

2014 Consumer Confidence Report for the City of Pullman, Wash. Drinking Water System

Dear Water Customers:

The City of Pullman Water Department is pleased to present a summary on the quality of the water provided to you during the past year. The federal Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that utilities issue an annual “Consumer Confidence” report to customers in addition to other notices that may also be required by law. This report details where our water comes from, what it contains, and the risks that water testing and water treatment are designed to prevent. The City of Pullman is committed to providing you with a safe and reliable water supply. Informed customers are our best allies in maintaining safe drinking water.

City of Pullman drinking water meets or surpasses most federal and state drinking water standards.

Call us for more information about the next opportunity for public participation in decisions about our drinking water, or find out more on the Internet at [www.pullman-wa.gov](http://www.pullman-wa.gov).

Overview

In 2014, the City of Pullman Water Department pumped, treated, and distributed over 908 million gallons of water. The average daily use per capita for the year was 96 gallons per person. The City also distributed free water conservation devices to the public. The City of Pullman is an active member of the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC) and, with the support of the citizens of

Pullman, has made great strides in maintaining, protecting, and conserving the City’s water supply. For more information on the mission of PBAC visit the PBAC Web site at [www.webs.uidaho.edu/pbac/](http://www.webs.uidaho.edu/pbac/).

Water Source

The City of Pullman is supplied by groundwater pumped from five wells located throughout the city. The wells range in depth from 167 to 932 feet.

An Explanation of the Water Quality Data Table

The table displays the results of our water quality analyses. Every regulated contaminant that was detected in the water—even in the minutest traces—is listed here. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation; the ideal goals for public health, the amount detected, the usual sources of such contamination, footnotes explaining the findings, and a key to units of measurement.

Important Definitions

- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL’s are set as close to the MCLG’s as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

- Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Required Additional Health Information

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environ-

mental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Our drinking water is groundwater supplied by five underground wells. As water travels over the surface of or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive materials, and can pick up many substances produced by the presence of animals or human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- A. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can occur naturally or result from storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- B. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- C. Microbial contaminants such as viruses, parasites and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations or wildlife.
- D. Radioactive contaminants which can occur naturally or result from oil and gas production and mining activities.
- E. Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also can come from gas stations, storm water runoff and septic systems.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, those who have had organ transplants, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

In Washington state, lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components used in household plumbing. The more time water has been sitting in pipes the more dissolved metals, such as lead, it may contain. Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially in pregnant women and young children.

To help reduce potential exposure to lead: for any drinking water tap that has not been used for six hours or more, flush water through the tap until the water is noticeably colder before using for drinking or cooking. You can use the flushed water for watering plants, washing dishes or general cleaning. Only use water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water is available from EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or online at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead)

National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Compliance

Other Monitoring

The City of Pullman also tests for other substances and microscopic organisms that are sometimes found in water for which no standards have been set. The City has taken the initiative to monitor issues that concern the people in this area, even though the City is not required by law to do so. As part of the City’s water quality report, it is important to point out that tests have been performed to detect the presence of herbicides and pesticides and no evidence of either has been found.

The City of Pullman is active in protecting the community and will notify consumers immediately of any waterborne health threat.

The City of Pullman Water Department is available to answer any questions regarding water quality and supply. Please contact **Art Garro** at (509) 338-3238 for more information. Water Quality Data for community water systems throughout the United States is available on the World Wide Web at [www.waterdata.com](http://www.waterdata.com).

EPA Primary Standards

Contaminant <sup>1</sup>	Date <sup>2</sup> Sampled	Range of <sup>6</sup> Detections	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Major Sources in Drinking Water	Violation
Barium	5/22/2013	0.0596 - 0.0969	mg/l	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.	No
Chlorine	12/22/2014	0 - 0.72	ppm	MRDL=4.0	MRDLG=4.0	Water additive to control microbes	No
Chromium (Total)	9/17/2010	0.0018	mg/l	0.1	0.1	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits.	No
Copper <sup>3</sup>	9/3/2013	0.0099 - 0.851	mg/l	AL=1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	No
Fluoride	12/22/2014	0.433 - 1.56	ppm	4.0	4.0	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	No
Gross Alpha Radiation	10/11/2011	0.912	pCi/l	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits of certain mineral that are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as "alpha radiation".	No
Lead <sup>4</sup>	9/3/2013	0.00107 - 0.0273	mg/l	AL=0.015	AL=0.0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	No
Radium 228	10/11/2011	0.784	pCi/l	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Selenium	5/22/2013	0.00158	mg/l	0.05	0.05	Discharge from petroleum refineries and mines; erosion of natural deposits	No
Total Trihalomethane	10/15/2014	0.4 - 7.65	ug/l	80	n/a	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	No
Turbidity	5/22/2013	0.027 - 0.69	NTU	5	n/a	Soil runoff	No
Chloride	5/22/2013	2.41 - 6.9	mg/l	250		Erosion of natural deposits	No
Color	6/19/2012	5	color unit	15		Erosion of natural deposits	No
Copper <sup>3</sup>	9/3/2013	0.0099 - 0.851	mg/l	AL=1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	No
Fluoride	12/22/2014	0.433 - 1.56	ppm	4.0	4.0	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	No
Iron	5/22/2013	0.353 - 0.412	mg/l	0.3		Erosion of natural deposits	Yes <sup>5</sup>
Manganese	5/22/2013	0.0322 - 0.0344	mg/l	0.05		Erosion of natural deposits	No <sup>5</sup>
Sulfate	5/22/2013	3.99 - 6.77	mg/l	250		Erosion of natural deposits	No
Total Dissolved Solids	5/22/2013	202 - 221	mg/l	500		Erosion of natrual deposits	No
Zinc	5/22/2013	0.0016 - 0.00275	mg/l	5		Erosion of natural deposits	No

Footnotes:

- Only contaminants that were found in the drinking water are listed.
- Some contaminants are not required to be sampled annually. Only the most recent sample date is listed.
- The highest detection is reported as the 90th percentile sample. In 2013 a total of 32 samples were analyzed with 0 above the Action Limit
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- Iron and manganese are not regulated by the EPA, however, the Washington State Department of Health has established a Secondary MCL for iron and manganese. Secondary MCLs are based on factors other than health effects. For these contaminants, aesthetic quality is the basis for the Secondary MCL. There are no requirements to treat or remove these contaminants from the drinking water.
- The lowest to highest detected contaminant levels for any contaminant for samples taken between 1/1/2010 and 12/31/2014.

Key:

ND = None Detected  
ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)  
ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)  
umhos/cm = micromhos per centimeter